

WHY CURRIE WAS NOT TRIED

LAURIE BARRYMORE'S REASONS FOR NOT APPEARING AS A WITNESS.

The Failure of the Effort to Raise Money for Currie's Prosecution—Mr. Barrymore's Story of the Murder—The Fine of \$500 Against Miss Cummings and Himself.

James Currie of Marshall, Texas, who shot and killed Benjamin F. Porter, the actor, in the depot restaurant in Marshall on the night of March 19 last, is likely to escape for want of evidence against him. With the object of learning how it happened that when the case was called, on the 25th ult., all the witnesses were absent, what became of the money that was raised to aid in prosecuting the murderer, and what the prospects are for getting the witnesses to attend when the case is called again next April, a Sun reporter yesterday sought Maurice Barrymore, now playing at Wallack's Theatre, who was himself shot by the ruffian Currie at the same time with Porter, and narrowly escaped with his life. Mr. Barrymore was shown a dispatch from Marshall criticising him for not appearing at the session of the court on the 25th ult., when it was expected that Currie would trial.

"Of course I received notice," Mr. Barrymore said, "that the trial was coming on the 25th, and I had given my personal bond that I would attend. But the fact is, that I could not afford to do so. I was actually engaged by Mr. Waldeck to appear in a new piece, and if I had gone off then I should have lost my engagement for the season. Miss Cummings, who was with us when we were shot, was too ill to go, and I could not afford the expense."

"Was there not a fund raised to defray the expenses of the prosecution?"

"There was no committee to attend to that matter," said Mr. Barrymore. "Nearly all the money that was raised went to the family of poor Porter. There were several individual subscriptions, the largest of which was by Mr. Wm. Astor, who gave his check for \$500 to John T. Raymond to help defray the expenses of the prosecution. Then Mr. Raymond gave \$100 to contribute \$100 more, and some small sums were collected—not in all amounting to \$100. There was no committee to take charge of it. Mr. T. Alston Brown, who acted on the Committee to raise funds for Porter's family, declined to contribute to the Committee, and the sum only bought off Currie's friends—Mr. Barrymore more anxious than ever to be present at the trial when the case is again brought up."

SPEAKING FOR MR. TILDEN.

The Sentiments of Representative Democrats—What Judge Black Says.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The letter in today's *SUN* from Washington, in which the political friends of Mr. Tilden, through a representative man, speak their minds quite freely, has created a profound sensation.

It has awakened more than one of the world's political harmonizers to a realising sense of the futility of their efforts to condone the treason of John Kelly and his Tammany braves. The bold declarations made therein are attributed to various persons in Congress, and among others to Speaker Randall; but the fact is that they are the sentiments, not of individuals, but of a large majority of the thoughtful and intelligent representatives of the Democracy of every section. It is a significant fact that Judge Black should have publicly expressed them last night in much the same spirit as the representative friend of Mr. Tilden did.

The language of Judge Black was, as always, is wonderfully impressive. In reply to some gentlemen who had declared in his presence that it was a dead certainty, and indeed beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the Commodore was worthy, he said: "I am sure that with a little effort a large sum could be raised to conduct the *Cimmerian* back home again."

He then turned to the *Clipper*. "I am sure that with a little effort a large sum could be raised to conduct the *Clipper* back home again."

Mr. Barrymore says that he feels so fear for that man that he has given his name to him and Miss Cummings for non-attendance will be enforced, should they determine to attend in April. Now that the other witness, the keeper of the restaurant Nat Harvey, who was with Currie and only bought off by Currie's friends—Mr. Barrymore more anxious than ever to be present at the trial when the case is again brought up."

THE VANDERBILT MEMORIAL TABLET.

Some Explanations by the Rev. Dr. Deems of Its Inscriptions and Figures.

A mural tablet to the late Commodore Vanderbilt has been placed in the Church of the Strangers, through contributions by a large number of members. In order that all might have opportunity to contribute, the subscription was limited to \$1. The tablet is a thick engraved bronze plate, about three feet by two, fastened to a slab of polished black marble. The inscription is:

ERECTED TO THE
MEMORY OF
CORNELIUS VANDERBILT
CHIEF OF THE STRANGERS.

On either side are the figures 1789 and 1877.

The date of the former is the birth and death, Around the plate is the inscription: "He was worthy, for he hath built us a synagogue." Those words, Dr. Deems explained, are peculiarly appropriate, because they were used in an appeal to Christ on behalf of a man who, although not a Christian, had been liberal enough to do so.

Dr. Deems also said that the inscription to the *Clipper*, "I am sure that with a little effort a large sum could be raised to conduct the *Cimmerian* back home again," was not to be taken literally, but that the persons

were referring to the balance of Mr. Astor's subscription back to him.

But, with the present persons

not being able to do so, it is evident that a sufficient sum could be raised to defray the expenses of the trial.

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CONGRESSMAN VOORHIS'S BANK.

The Stockholders Correct a Mistake Made When They Decided on Liquidation.

The stockholders of the First National Bank in Hackensack met yesterday in the bank building, at the suggestion of Congressman Voorhis, to consider the proposal, to rectify a mistake made by themselves in their meeting of Nov. 22, when it was decided to put the bank into liquidation. Congressman Voorhis, who had been President of the bank, owned originally 534 shares; and, as the total number of shares is 1,000, Congressman Voorhis had a controlling voice. In the meeting of Nov. 22, these 534 shares were voted upon by proxy, Mr. C. N. Jordan of the Third National Bank of New York answering, "Here or there," when Congressman Voorhis's name was called. Mr. Jordan voted in favor of liquidation with the stockholders. It was a unanimous vote. But, as the bank had suspended business shortly before that meeting of stockholders, Comptroller Knox in Washington was, by law, empowered to wind up its affairs, and when the stockholders voted, he had done in their meeting what he had done to the bank, his word could not be relied on in directing the bank's policy. The Comptroller, however, was also interested in correcting the stockholders' action, as by it his connection with the Yorkville Bank was destroyed.

But Congressman Voorhis did not really own the stock, although it stood in his name on the books. He had hypothecated the stock to various individuals, and the stockholders' proceedings have become a part of his estate. The bank officials are not liable as to the names of the stockholders, but the stockholders are liable for the debts of the bank.

It is not known whether the name of Luke, that is explained by Dr. Deems in the fact that the name of Luke is mentioned on the tablet, refers to vaccination. One peculiar device on the tablet is that of a hand holding a rudder. It is held by the other, and by the rudder the words, "We have no power over the winds, but by the word of God we can command them." The name of Luke is the name of the saint, and the name of the saint is the name of the church.

Interwoven with the inscription are several illustrations taken from ecclesiastical history. The four corners of the tablet are occupied by the names of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The uninitiated in the Bible may not know what these names mean, but the reader of the tablet will find that the name of a cow may have to do with Luke, but that is explained by Dr. Deems in the fact that the name of Luke is mentioned on the tablet, and that is the name of the saint, and the name of the saint is the name of the church.

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